

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Meaghan McFall-Gorman; I am an undergraduate student of Eastern Connecticut State University who has come here today to speak on behalf of the students I represent regarding the topic of Funding for our State Schools.

The task that you are charged with as a Member of the Appropriations Committee is to see that all funding is wisely and appropriately granted to those programs and causes who have the greatest need and who shall have the greatest positive impact on the future of the State of Connecticut.

We do not envy you that task by any means.

However, it is our task, as duly elected representatives of the students, to convince you that our cause, our institutions, will have the greatest impact on the State of Connecticut in the near future and in the long term, many years from now.

Providing and ensuring funding for state schools is not the equivalent of putting money in a black hole. Funding education is an investment with great returns. Individuals who receive a higher education through establishments such as Eastern Connecticut State University are providing the return on that investment as soon as they enter the work force and begin giving back to their community.

Realistically however, students cannot stop after a four year degree, in today's economy a bachelors is the new high school diploma. To be competitive students must pursue a master degree, possibly a doctorate in any given field. To do that, more money is required on their behalf.

Therefore, to lessen this burden on today's and tomorrow's students, and to increase the possibility of a better, economically stronger Connecticut, I call upon the Appropriations Committee to respond accordingly when deciding upon the funding granted to education.

Thank you.